



# EPA Region III

Green Purchasing Program  
for Federal Facilities

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# Why Buy Green?

- ❑ Conserves natural resources
- ❑ Provides vital feedstocks to domestic aluminum, steel, and paper industries
- ❑ Reduces air and water pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases
- ❑ Saves energy
- ❑ Creates jobs



# Why Buy Green?

“Twenty-five years after RCRA was to launch a revolution in federal purchases of recycled content products, the success of this effort is largely uncertain...Even today, many procuring officials and other federal purchasers either do not know about or implement the RCRA requirements...”

-GAO, June 2001



# Why Buy Green?

It's the law..and  
its good!



# Mandates

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Section 6002 (42 USC 6962), enacted in 1976, as amended
- EO 13101, Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition - 14 Sep 98
- Federal Acquisition Regulation



# Executive Order 13101

## Major Initiatives

- Prohibits the sale and purchase of printing and writing paper not containing a minimum of 30% postconsumer fiber
- Directs agencies to incorporate in their daily operation, methods to build markets for environmentally preferable products and services which can reduce pollution, save energy and materials, and create jobs



# Executive Order 13101

## Major Initiatives

- ❑ Addresses the need of the Federal Government to increase purchases of environmentally preferable and biobased products in order to develop markets for these items
- ❑ Mandates the evaluation of federal facility compliance with RCRA Section 6002



# Executive Order 13101

## Acquisition Planning

The EO implements affirmative procurement program by requiring agencies to consider these factors in acquisition planning:

- Elimination of virgin material requirements
- Use of biobased products
- Use of recovered materials
- Product reuse and life cycle cost
- Recyclability
- Use of environmentally preferable products
- Waste prevention including toxicity reduction/elimination; and
- Ultimate disposal



# Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)

- ❑ Environmental considerations now officially incorporated as of June 2000
- ❑ Strengthens and enhances previous environmental language contained in the FAR



# FAR Part 23

## Env. Considerations

- ❑ **Subchapter D, Part 23- ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION, OCCUPATIONAL SAFTEY, AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE**
- ❑ **23.403 Policy-** Government policy on the use of recovered materials considers cost, availability of competition, and performance. The objective is to acquire competitively, in a cost-effective manner, products that meet reasonable performance requirements and that are composed of the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable.



# FAR Part 23

## Env. Considerations

- ❑ **23.703 Policy-** Government policy on the acquisition of environmentally preferable and energy efficient products and services.  
Promotes cost-effective waste reduction and consideration of biobased products.



# FAR Revisions

**The FAR changes address acquisition planning, describing agency needs, acquisition of commercial items, micropurchases, purchases less than \$100,000, and environmental and energy policy considerations.**



# RCRA Section 6002

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act  
(RCRA, 42 USC 6962) of 1976

- In section 6002, Congress provided a mechanism to increase government purchasing of recycled products.
- Designed to help stimulate markets for materials recovered from solid waste by using the government's purchasing power.



# RCRA Requirements

Applies to all Federal agencies, and their agencies' contractors who use Federal appropriated funds to purchase the EPA designated products



# What We Must Do

Once EPA designates a procurement item or product category, procuring agencies are required to comply within **one year of the date the addition to the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) occurs**, by purchasing the item with the highest recovered materials content level practicable



# Affirmative Procurement Program

- As described in the E.O. and RCRA, an APP is an agency's strategy for maximizing its purchases of products designated by EPA
- It is recommended that each procuring agency develop one overall APP identifying which designated products the agency purchases. When EPA designates additional products, agencies can simply revise the APP as appropriate



# Status of EPA Buy-Recycled Program

To date, the EPA has designated  
**54** items in **8** categories.



# CPG Product Categories

- Paper and Paper Products
- Vehicles
- Construction
- Transportation
- Parks and Recreation
- Landscaping
- Non-Paper Office Products
- Miscellaneous



# Where are We?

- ❑ McDonald's Corporation alone has bought more recycled content products than the Federal government over a 10 year period.
- ❑ McDonald's recently reported spending \$4 billion on recycled content products since 1990.
- ❑ We've spent more than \$3 billion since 1992.



# Where are We?

- ❑ For FY '99, the top six Federal reported purchasing agencies and USPS bought more than \$490 million worth of EPA-designated products.
- ❑ Actual purchases are higher.
- ❑ We're making real progress purchasing recycled content paper, refined oil, and concrete.



# Where are We?

- There is still wide-spread lack of knowledge about the program among environmental, facilities, and acquisition staff at the individual facility level.
- The role of GSA vs. agency purchasers is misunderstood.



# Where are We?

- ❑ Acquisitions through the government purchase card continue to be a problem.
- ❑ There are some notable examples of using electronic catalogs and training purchase card holders to buy “green.”



# Where are We?

- ❑ An inter-agency workgroup is addressing the problem of reporting.
- ❑ Options include the use of data from the Federal Procurement Data System, reporting indicator items, and auditing.



# Where Are We Going?

- ❑ There will be a greater emphasis on the use of environmental management systems.
- ❑ “Green” purchasing will be an integral part of any successful EMS.



# Where Are We Going?

“We must preserve our natural heritage by serving as good stewards of our land. Recycling helps to serve the important function of conserving our natural resources as we reuse them where we can. Recycling safeguards our environment and helps keep America beautiful for present and future generations.”

- President George W. Bush  
America Recycles Day, 2001



# White House Task Force on Recycling

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